

## Memorandum of Understanding

### Northeast Regional Ocean Council & Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment February 2010

#### Parties

The Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) is a U.S. state and federal partnership with the goal of engaging in regional protection and balanced use of ocean and coastal resources. NROC's coordinated approach reaches across state boundaries from Maine to Connecticut to find and implement solutions to the region's most pressing ocean and coastal issues.

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC) is a U.S.-Canadian partnership of government and non-government organizations working to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations. The Council represents a unique non-regulatory forum for bi-national discussion on environmental issues of shared concern.

#### Overview

Our organizations have a shared interest in the wise management of coastal and ocean resources for the benefit of current and future generations. Further we have a common geographic focus around the Gulf of Maine and shared priorities around a healthy and resilient coastal and ocean ecosystem. As such we have a strong interest in collaborating with each other and leveraging human and financial resources to the benefit of our shared ecosystem.

#### Methods of collaboration

Our organizations agree to partner on the following:

1. Coordinated strategic planning – As each organization prepares and/or updates its long-range plans it will ensure strong consultation occurs to capitalize on opportunities and minimize redundancies. We understand how our missions are intertwined and will work cooperatively to implement them, including the pursuit of joint work plans where appropriate. We commit to substantive and ongoing dialogue. We will be mutually supportive, responsive to requests for assistance and solicit advice from each other as needed. In this way we will sustain a durable and effective working relationship.
2. Ecosystem Health Activities – Healthy ecosystems is a shared priority for both organizations. On an annual basis the organizations will assess their planned ecosystem health activities and identify a point of contact (POC) for purposes of maintaining communication and sharing information and lessons learned. The designated POCs will identify opportunities for collaboration in the Gulf of Maine region as well as opportunities to transfer ideas to their broader geographies of Southern New England and the Canadian Maritimes.
3. Climate Change Activities – The economic, social and environmental effects of a changing climate are another shared priority. Both organizations are working on climate change policy, communications and technical assistance. On an annual basis the organizations will designate a point of contact (POC) that will identify opportunities for collaboration in the Gulf of Maine region as well as opportunities to transfer ideas to their broader geographies of Southern New England and the Canadian Maritimes.
4. Joint projects – Subject to available funding, the organizations will jointly support projects of shared interest that are identified during the development of each organization's annual work plans.
5. Progress reports – The organizations will periodically report to their respective boards on progress in implementing this MOU and solicit suggestions for other collaboration opportunities.
6. Fund development and management – When appropriate the organizations will work cooperatively on funding requests to ensure an integrated, seamless approach. In addition, the Association of US Delegates to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, when

requested by NROC, may assist that organization by receiving, disbursing and accounting for funds that the organization receives.

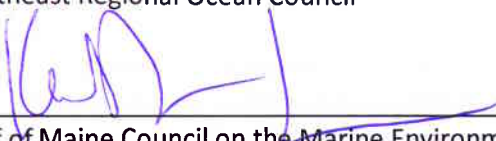
Duration and termination of Agreement

The duration of the agreement will be for one year. Renewal will be automatic unless specifically terminated. Amendment of the agreement may be made at any time, by signature of both parties.

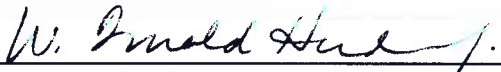
Termination of the agreement may be initiated by either party in writing with a notice period of 30 days.

  
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Northeast Regional Ocean Council

9/24/10  
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Date

  
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Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

9-24-10  
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Date

  
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Association of US Delegates to the Gulf of Maine Council  
on the Marine Environment (for fiscal purposes only)

9/27/2010  
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Date